# AN INQUIRY INTO THE COURSE OF NATURE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMAN RACE

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The contradictions within human nature have always deeply affected me. Even today, although I am an old and weary man, I can still ask myself, with the pure curiosity of a child, this simple question:

WHAT AM I?

WHAT IS HUMANITY?

WHAT HAVE I DONE THROUGHOUT MY LIFE?

WHAT IS HUMANITY DOING?

I look at my reflection in the mirror, and within it I see three different human beings, three different personalities, three different natures:

1. The instinctive animal man

2. The social man

3. The moral man

The instinctive man is, naturally, the work of nature and creation. He is merely the servant of bodily needs and pleasures. He is selfish and thinks only of himself, yet he is also sincere and straightforward. Our instinctive side is the dominant character during childhood.

When humanity settled into organized societies, the concept of property emerged, and with property came conflict. As balances of power shifted, the weaker fell under the protection and control of the stronger; thus, the concept of the state was born.

By restricting human freedom and subjecting individuals to certain rules, society shaped man according to its own order. Thus, the social man emerged. And indeed, we may say that the social man is far more the product of society than of nature.

Yet the animal instincts are always disturbed by living under the yoke of the social man. They wish to reserve the lion’s share for themselves alone and do not hesitate to seize the rights of others for their own advantage.

However, since the social state openly forbids the use of force among individuals, mankind finds dozens of other ways to attack one another. Even though societies today may appear civilized, the social man must always remain vigilant in order to protect himself.

Nevertheless, it is the state alone that safeguards order, productivity, science, and art. Yet the state cannot touch the human heart, nor can it heal it.

The animal man is the work of nature; the social man is the work of society.

The moral man, however, must become only the work of himself. He must cultivate and nourish the feelings of love, compassion, justice, and gratitude that the Creator has placed within his heart.

Only in this way can communities become truly virtuous societies. Otherwise, they cannot free themselves from the slavery of basic instincts, nor attain the noble dignity of being truly human.

When human beings shape themselves through reading and inquiry, they may liberate both heart and mind from the grip of instinct and the prejudices of society.

And man can find his Creator only by listening to his heart.